



U.S. Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2003

LANCASTER COUNTY DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO STIFF PRISON TERMS UNDER *PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS*

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and Donald R. Totaro, Lancaster County District Attorney, announced today that United States District Judge James Knoll Garner sentenced defendant **DESMOND NELSON** to a term of 80 months imprisonment without parole following NELSON's guilty plea in September to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

This is the most recent sentence of imprisonment of a Lancaster County defendant as part of *Project Safe Neighborhoods*, a joint initiative by the United States Attorney's Office, the Lancaster County District Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Lancaster City Police Department, and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute dangerous firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction.

"The number of defendants charged under this program has increased 25% since 2001," said Meehan. "There's no question that these cases are sending a very clear message that felons who get caught with guns face serious time and our communities are becoming safer because of it."

The Nelson conviction arose out of a domestic violence incident on October 6, 2003, during which NELSON pulled out a fully loaded .357 magnum revolver on his girlfriend and then threatened to assault her. After a 911 call was made to the Lancaster Police Department reporting this incident, NELSON was arrested and the handgun was recovered quickly as a result of excellent police work. NELSON was detained pending trial and has remained and will remain incarcerated until he completes his federal sentence.

LAMONT BOYCE

On November 14, 2003, United States District Judge Franklin S. Van Antwerpen sentenced defendant LAMONT BOYCE to a term of **14 years** imprisonment following his guilty plea to six counts of distribution and possession with intent to distribute approximately 126 grams of crack cocaine and 12 grams of cocaine powder at three separate locations in Lancaster County. BOYCE came to attention the Lancaster County Drug Task Force and the Lancaster *Project Safe Neighborhoods* Task Force as a result of related firearms and drug investigations.

DAMIEN CLAGON & LARRY HARCUM

On December 9, 2003, a federal grand jury returned indictments charging two defendants as follows:

DAMIEN CLAGON was charged in a one-count indictment with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon on April 1, 2003. Because CLAGON is an armed career criminal, which means that he has at least three convictions for serious drug crimes or crimes of violence, he faces upon conviction a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum sentence of three years supervised release and a \$250,000 fine.

LARRY HARCUM was charged in a two-count indictment with possession of three firearms by a convicted felon on January 9, 2002 and September 20, 2003. HARCUM faces upon conviction a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, three years supervised release and a \$500,000 fine.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
DESMOND NELSON	255 East New Street Lancaster	12/1/80
LAMONT BOYCE	244 S. Lime Street Lancaster	11/18/80
DAMIEN CLAGAN	32 S. West End Ave. Lancaster	10/22/73
LARRY HARCUM	754 Manor Street Lancaster	6/18/73

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